













## WASHINGTON, D. C.

## WHAT BECOMES OF THE FREE COLORED PEOPLE?

The Southern newspapers, and those of the free States which advocate or apologize for Slavery, have recently circulated a statement from the census relative to the decline of the ratio of increase of the free colored population. Their object is to point out the advantage of Slavery to the colored race, and to show that in a state of freedom they rapidly decline, and must eventually disappear. The following is a portion of the statement referred to, and is correctly taken from the census table:

From the Census of 1850.

State	1830	1840	1850
Ohio	9,568	17,342	25,279
Indiana	3,089	7,165	11,363
Illinois	1,937	3,595	5,430
Michigan	261	707	926
Wisconsin	-	185	333
Iowa	-	172	333
California	-	-	965
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15,095</b>	<b>29,169</b>	<b>46,493</b>

Mid. States 17,890 37,605 68,804 84,899  
N. E. States 13,156 17,317 19,498 20,796  
**Totals** 31,008 55,422 91,317 112,279

Mid. States 1830 1840 1850  
N. E. States 1830 1840 1850  
**Totals** 152,384 187,647 214,092

Colored Population in each of the Southern States at different periods.

State	1790	1830	1840	1850
Virginia	9,433	19,237	29,730	39,730
Dist. Col.	783	2,549	4,048	5,430
Virginia	12,768	20,124	30,408	36,889
N. Carolina	4,975	10,101	16,612	21,612
Tennessee	1,901	2,182	4,554	7,277
Georgia	398	1,219	2,801	4,763
Alabama	-	182	571	971
Mississippi	-	-	182	571
Louisiana	-	-	7,850	10,476
Florida	-	-	-	932
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27,993</b>	<b>51,923</b>	<b>91,492</b>	<b>115,737</b>

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tended to impoverish and depress the free colored people, the fact is by no means attributable to the race, but to the tyranny. They are not only proscribed by law, North and South, but the weight of prejudice has assigned them more imperiously than law has assigned them an inferior station, and denied them the privilege of pursuing the most honorable occupations. In the slave States, the slaveholders look upon them with suspicion, and nothing but necessity could induce them to give employment to the despised race. We understand that within a few years the demand for labor has been so great in some sections as to overcome prejudice, and there has been a consequent improvement in the condition of the free colored population. In the free States, strong prejudice exists among the white laboring class against the colored people, and they are often denied employment on this account. These depressing circumstances doubtless have operated injuriously upon them, and prevented as rapid increase as would otherwise have taken place. But they are insufficient to account for the great falling off in the ratio of increase, and in some of the States the actual diminution of their numbers. This decrease is most conspicuous in the opposite extremes of the Union. New England and New York show an actual falling off. The Middle, Western, and Southern States, except Louisiana, exhibit more or less gain. The latter, however, shows the remarkable and sudden falling off, in the last years of thirty years. Up to 1840, the colored population of Louisiana increased rapidly, showing a decennial increase of from thirty-eight to sixty per cent. The sudden decline is the more remarkable from the fact that Louisiana is the only Southern State where laws affecting this class of the population are not tinged with the least grain of humanity. In Louisiana, free colored persons are allowed to testify in their courts of justice; and the municipal authorities of New Orleans, where they reside for the most part, make provision for the education of their children. It is not most singular that under such circumstances they show a declension amounting to nearly one-third of their numbers, while in Virginia, in spite of the most rigorous and inhuman laws, they have increased eight per cent.

In New England and New York, also, the people of color are regarded with more favor than anywhere else in the Union, and yet they have actually declined in numbers in ten years. In Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and other free States, on the other hand, where they meet less favor, their numbers are on the increase. Those who maintain that Slavery is the only proper condition of the negro, and who insist that freedom is destructive of his existence, may argue, from the state of facts here presented, that the free colored people in the free States are subject to the same evils which afflict the colored people in the slave States. We will now place the above footings in juxtaposition under the same headings which the *Bulletin* uses, in order that the grossness of the mis-statement may be rendered palpable:

gain. The latter, however, shows the result of sudden falling off, in the last ten years, of thirty-one per cent! Up to 1840, the free colored population of Louisiana had grown so rapidly, showing a decennial increase of from thirty-eight to sixty per cent. The sudden decrease is due to the fact that Louisiana is the only Southern State that laws affecting this class of the population are tinctured with the least grain of humanity. In Louisiana, free colored persons are allowed to testify in their courts of justice; and the municipal authorities of New Orleans, the

of the African; while in the third, when the whole blood of white is mixed with the mulatto, having only one-fourth African in it, that issue will scarcely be distinguishable from that of white persons, and will have but one-eighth of African blood. In the second case, when a negro is crossed with a white, the result is a mulatto, and it is to be imagined that the residence of such a person, to be recognized as white; and we have shown, above, that the laws of the slaveholding States regard them as such. In the free States, where no legal necessity exists for defining the difference between white and colored, there is sufficient impediment to the ascent of the inferior race.